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Wheels of Freedom, one of the International Freedom Festival's truly international events, will be held on Saturday, June 30. More than 225 automobiles, vintage and modern, will be on display in Windsor from 9 am to noon, then will travel across the Ambassador Bridge to a display site in Detroit's New Center Area.

Freedom Festival

Friday, June 22nd marks the beginning of the 26th Annual International Freedom Festival. Commemorating Independence Day in the U.S. and Ontario's bicentennial, this year's Freedom Festival, which runs through July 4th, has been christened "the world's largest birthday bash." More than 50 events, (mostly free) will be featured throughout downtown Detroit, Windsor and surrounding communities.

The festivities will kick off at noon on June 22, with the opening ceremony at Dieppe Park in Windsor.

The Conklin Carnival opens its doors June 22. Located at Ouellette and Riverside in Windsor, the carnival features live entertainment, food and rides. Hours are noon to midnight daily, June 22-July 4.

June 22 to 25 visit Voyager Village in Windsor and experience life as it was in an 18th century fur trapper's colony.

The streets of Detroit's Cultural Center will be closed on Friday, June 29, at 9:30 am, transforming this area into a giant playground for Children's Day, featuring crafts, games and music.

On Saturday, June 30, 9 am, Windsor City Hall will launch the Wheels of Freedom antique car show. At noon the cars will parade across the Ambassador bridge to be showcased at the New Center Area.

Sunday, July 1st offers events on both sides of the Detroit River. At 10 am, Windsor kicks off its largest annual parade. With more than 100 entries, The Canada Day Parade begins its trek on Ouellette Avenue. Tasty treats await those on the other side of the river. Detroit's Eastern Market will be offering free samples from over 60 of its specialty

shops. In addition to the sumptuous samples, the world's largest fruit cocktail and an ox roast will be available to a hungry public.

Music will abound at Hart Plaza from Friday, June 29 through Wednesday, July 4. Rock, country, jazz, rhythm and blues, gospel and more will be featured on the Stroh Mainstage, as follows:

June 29 - 20th anniversary of the Beatles.

June 30 - Salute to Motown, with the Spinners.

July 1 - Gospel Fest.

Preview to Montreux.

July 4 - All American Country.

There will also be live music featured in Windsor's Dieppe Park, nightly during the festival.

The USS Edson Naval Destroyer will be docked at Hart Plaza for tours during the festival. Additional military entertainment at Hart Plaza includes U.S. Air Force Presidential Drill Team, U.S. Air Force Tops in Blue and the First Marine Band.

The Freedom Festival Fireworks, the largest display in North America, is scheduled for Monday, July 2nd, with a rain date of July 3rd. The eight ton display, which is sponsored by Hudson's, the Stroh Brewery Company, WDIV-TV and WMJC/FM, has been the signature event for the festival since its beginning in 1959 when the two countries celebrated a visit from Queen Elizabeth II.

Additional Freedom Festival events include:

June 23 - Windsor Star International Freedom Festival Fun Run - Windsor.

June 29 - Cinema Canada, Detroit Water Polo Championship - Windsor.

June 29 - 25th Seaway Anniversary Traveling Showcase - Windsor 6/29-7/4.

June 30 - International Tugboat Race. International Track & Field - Windsor. con't. back page

Ethnic Festival schedule

This is the 15th year of the ethnic festival celebrations and already they are in full swing.

All festivals are held at the foot of Woodward in Hart Plaza and begin at 6 pm Friday and run until midnight.

Saturday, everything is in operation from noon to midnight; on Sunday and holidays, from noon to 10 pm.

There's no admission charge to the festivals or to any of the entertainment, music, dancing or cultural gallery displays. Food and souvenir items may be purchased.

June 22-24 Detroit Grand Prix III International Freedom Festival
 June 29-July 4 Italian Festival
 July 6-8 Captive Nations Festival
 July 13-15 Latin American Festival
 July 20-22 Afro-American Festival
 July 27-29 Far Eastern Festival & Festival of India

August 10-12 Polish Festival
 August 17-19 Mexican Festival
 August 24-26 African World Festival
 August 31-Sept. 3 Montreux Detroit International Jazz Festival
 September 7-9 Scandinavian Festival
 September 14-16 Yugoslav Festival